1st February 1929]

Proposed opening of an arrack shop in Poonamallee.

*1324 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to open a new arrack shop in Poonamallee;

(b) whether the Government are aware that there is already one arrack shop within half a mile of Poonamallee, and another arrack shop within two miles of Poonamallee; and

(c) whether the Government propose to open new toddy and arrack shops in the coming year, and if so, how many in the Chingleput district, and how many in the whole of the Presidency?

A.—(a) & (c) No such proposals are under the consideration of the Government. The question of opening new shops and closing existing shops is settled every year by the local officers in consultation with the local excise licensing boards and excise advisory committees.

(b) The Government have not the information. A report has been called for.

Alleged complaints of the contractor of Gauripuram toddy shop.

*1325 Q.—Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the contractor of Gauripuram toddy shop (Hospet taluk) has been regularly remitting the contract amount every month into the treasury of Hospet;

(b) whether he has failed at times to have any toddy for sale at Gauripuram, and if so, for how long;

(c) whether he has been prosecuted or otherwise taken action against for not keeping toddy for sale;

(d) whether he has been charged for failure to keep a toddy vendor at Gauripuram shop;

(e) whether the Government are compelling the contractor to maintain a vendor and to keep a certain amount of toddy for sale at the Gauripuram shop; and

(f) whether the Government compel the contractors to maintain a minimum amount of toddy at every toddy shop; and if so, why and under what authority?

A.—(a) to (e) Information has been called for.

(f) Under condition 8 of the general conditions applicable to all abkari licences such supply of liquor as the Collector may consider sufficient to meet local requirements must be maintained in each shop. Such a provision is necessary to prevent illicit practices.

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA:—"Sir, it is said that sufficient supply to meet the local requirements should be maintained. Was there any complaint that the requirements of the villagers were not supplied?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"A report has been called for."